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CONSTITUTION

AND

RULES

OF

AMERICAN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

MAY, 1830.

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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
AMERICAN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

THE object of this Society is to educate pious young men for the gospel ministry.

ART. I. Any person who shall subscribe and shall pay into the Treasury at one time, one hundred dollars, and if a clergyman, forty dollars, shall be an honorary member; and shall have a right to sit and deliberate in all meetings of the Society. But all members hereafter added to the Society, who shall be entitled to vote, shall be chosen by ballot at an annual meeting.

ART. II. A permanent fund shall be formed of bequests, legacies, donations, and grants, thus appropriated by the donors; and of any other property of the Society, as the Directors may think best calculated to promote the object in view.

ART. III. There shall annually be chosen, by ballot, a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, who shall also be Clerk, and such other officers as may be found necessary; who shall continue in office till others shall be chosen in their stead.

ART. IV. This Society shall, from time to time, by ballot, elect such a number of honorary Vice Presidents as they may judge expedient.

ART. V. The Society shall annually appoint, by ballot, eleven Directors; who, together with the President and Vice President of the Society, shall constitute a Board of Directors, five of whom shall constitute a quorum at any meeting regularly convened. It shall be the duty of this Board to increase the funds of the Society, by soliciting themselves, and by appointing and instructing agents to solicit, the aid requisite to achieve the object in view. This board shall have the power of appropriating all moneys for the support of beneficiaries; of examining and selecting candidates for patronage; of appointing committees to examine and recommend its applicants living in distant parts; and, generally, of transacting all business necessary for the furtherance of the objects of this Society, not otherwise herein provided for. The Directors shall also keep a fair record of their proceedings, and annually make report of their transactions to the Society.

ART. VI. Qualified candidates may be aided, in each stage of preparatory education for the ministry; but, except in very singular cases, no applicant shall be assisted, even in the first stage, who shall not produce, from serious and respectable characters, unequivocal

testimonials of hopeful piety, promising talents, and real indigence; nor shall any person be continued on this foundation, whose instructor or instructors, except in very special cases, shall not annually exhibit to the Directors, satisfactory evidence, that in point of genius, diligence, literary progress, morals, and piety, he is a proper character to receive aid from these sacred funds; in addition to which, each beneficiary, after his admission into any college, shall annually exhibit to the Directors, a written declaration, that it continues to be his serious purpose to devote his life to the gospel ministry.

ART. VII. Any person who has been assisted by this Society, and whose name shall be stricken from the list of beneficiaries, because of misconduct, or other deficiency in regard to the qualifications required by the constitution, and the rules of the Directors; or, who shall have concluded not to devote himself to the gospel ministry, shall, within a reasonable time, refund the sum expended for his education, with lawful interest, whenever required by the Directors.

ART. VIII. The President, and in his absence, the Vice President, in concurrence with three of the Directors, shall have power to call special meetings of the Society.

ART. IX. The Treasurer shall be bound with two sureties, in a reasonable sum, to be determined by the Directors, to the faithful discharge of his duty. He shall vest the property of the Society in the safest and most productive forms; make payments and advances of money, from time to time, agreeably to the orders of the Directors; and annually render to the Society a written account of all receipts and expenditures within the year, of the amount of its funds, and of the manner in which they are vested:—this account to be previously examined and approved, in writing, by a Committee of the Society, annually chosen for the purpose. He shall also give to the Directors, whenever they request it, a particular account of the state of the Treasury.

ART. X. The Society shall meet annually at such time and place as the Directors shall appoint, to elect officers, to hear the report of the Directors, and of the Treasurer, and to transact other necessary business.

ART. XI. At all meetings of the Society, twenty members shall be requisite to constitute a quorum; and every meeting of the Society, and of the Directors, shall be opened with prayer.

ART. XII. The Presidents of all Societies, auxiliaries to this, which shall pay annually one thousand dollars into the Treasury of this Society, shall be, ex officio, honorary Vice Presidents of this Society.

ART. XIII. Whenever a Society shall be formed, by the inhabitants of any State or district, which shall adopt the essential principles of this constitution, especially the provisions of the sixth article, as the basis of its own, such Society, upon due notice of its existence, and desire of union, may be received, by a vote of the Directors, as a constituent branch of the American Society.

Every such Branch Society shall possess the right of appointing its own officers, including a Board of Directors and a Treasurer; and also the right of appropriating its own funds for the assistance of beneficiaries, who shall have, in all respects, the requisite qualifi-

cations. Every candidate for such assistance shall be examined by a committee of three competent men, two of whom shall be appointed by the Directors of said Branch Society, and one, by the Directors of this Society; and, if approved, may prosecute his studies, preparatory to the ministry, under the immediate superintendence of the Directors of said Branch Society; or, if they shall deem it expedient, such candidate may be committed to the charge of the Directors of this Society. All moneys of any Branch Society, not appropriated as above, shall be transmitted to the general Treasury; and whenever the exigencies of such Society shall exceed its own resources, it may apply for assistance to the Directors of this Society.

ART. XIV. Presidents of Branch Societies shall be ex officio members of this Society, and also honorary members of the Board of Directors.

ART. XV. The Directors shall have power to supply any vacancies that may occur in their own Board, or in the officers of the Society, till the next annual meeting.

ART. XVI. No alteration of this constitution shall be made, except on recommendation of the Directors, and by vote of three fourths of the members present, at an annual meeting; or unless the proposed alteration shall have been submitted to the Society, in writing, at a previous meeting.

RULES

OF THE

AMERICAN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

MAY, 1830.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

1. It is the duty of the Board of Directors to superintend and to manage the prudential and executive business of the Society; and, especially, to see that the Constitution and Rules of the Society are faithfully observed.

Duties.

2. The Board meet quarterly for the transaction of business, on the *second Wednesday of January, April, July, and October*. Special meetings may be called by the Secretary, at the written request of three Directors.

Time of meeting.

Standing
Committees.

3. Two Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Board—a Financial Committee whose duty it shall be to attend to the funds, and to advise with the Treasurer concerning the investment of funds in the safest and most productive forms; and an Executive Committee whose duty it shall be to examine and to discuss subjects of importance, and to report on the same to the Board; to afford the Secretary counsel whenever he shall request it; and to perform any business during the recess of the Board, which, in their judgment, the interests of the Society may require. They shall keep a record of all their proceedings, which record shall be read to the Board at their regular, or other meetings, for their approval.

To keep a
record, and
to report an-
nually.

4. The Directors shall keep a fair record of their proceedings, and annually make report of their transactions to the Society.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE SECRETARY.

General Du-
ties.

1. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence; keep the records of the Board and of the Executive Committee; take measures for increasing the funds; and do what he can to promote the highest prosperity and usefulness of the Society.

To examine
Candidates
in special
cases.

2. The Secretary shall pay particular attention to the character and qualifications of applicants for aid, and for this purpose he shall be authorized to take part with Examining Committees, whenever he can be present, in the examination of candidates, as the official representative of this Board, and in special cases to conduct examinations separately.

To exercise
a pastoral su-
pervision.

3. The Secretary shall be required to exercise, so far as he shall be able, pastoral supervision over all who are under the patronage of the Society; by visiting them at the places where they reside, and conversing and praying with them individually or collectively; by correspondence with them, and with their instructors; and by any other means calculated to excite them to effort, and to encourage them to seek an elevated spirit of piety.

To see that
accounts of
Beneficiaries

4. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to see that the stated or other accounts of beneficiaries, under the patron-

age either of the Parent Society or of its Branches, are made out conformably to rule, and returned to the general office in season to be reported to the Board at each quarterly meeting. He shall also give notice of all appropriations made by the General Society, or its Branches, to young men under patronage, and direct them how, and where to apply for the same.

are regularly returned.

5. The Secretary shall notify all meetings of the Board, and when it can be done, make an orderly arrangement of the business to be transacted.

To notify Meetings.

6. Such assistance shall be allowed the Secretary in his department, as the Board shall judge to be necessary.

To have assistance.

CHAPTER III.

OF THE TREASURER.

1. The Treasurer shall take charge of the funds belonging to the Society, and keep an accurate account of the same, showing the sources from which they have been derived, and the purposes for which they have been given. He shall open a separate account with each Branch Society, with each Scholarship, or other distinct fund, and with each Beneficiary of the Parent Society, and of the Branches.

Duties.

2. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to invest the funds of the Society in the safest and most productive forms; but no permanent investments shall be made, or changed by him, without the concurrence of the Financial Committee.

To make investments with the concurrence of the Financial Committee.

3. No money shall be paid by the Treasurer from the funds of the Society, without a written order from the Directors. The following shall be the form in which the payments of accounts shall be directed. "The within, [or above] account allowed by the Directors, and payment ordered [adding the date] A——B——, Clerk.

To make no payments without a written order.

C——D——, Treasurer."

4. The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of all notes of young men assisted by the Parent Society and of its branches. Whenever, in his judgment, it may be important to have the notes deposited for safe keeping, at the places where they are given, he shall have the power of appointing such persons as he shall judge proper, for this

To take charge of the notes of Beneficiaries.

purpose, and of giving them the necessary instructions, as his agents. When the notes thus given shall become due, it shall be his duty to give seasonable notice thereof to the persons by whom they have been given, unless they shall have been previously cancelled, or otherwise disposed of by the Board.

To receive and distribute donations in clothing.

5. The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of donations in clothing, and shall distribute the same agreeably to directions given by the Secretary, or such other person or persons as the Executive Committee of the Board shall appoint for this purpose.

To report the state of the funds.

6. At each quarterly meeting of the Directors, the Treasurer shall make a report in writing on the state of the funds, mentioning, particularly, what amount there is in the treasury at the time, subject to the immediate disposal of the Directors. He shall, also, furnish for publication quarterly, or oftener, if requested, a complete list of all donations to the Parent Society, and to its several Branches.

To report annually to the Society.

7. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to make a written Report to the Society, at each annual meeting, of all expenditures and receipts within the year; of the amount of the funds, and the manner of their investment; which report shall be previously examined, and proved in writing, by an Auditing Committee, chosen by the Society.

To give bonds.

8. The Treasurer shall be bound for the faithful discharge of his duties, with sufficient sureties, in a reasonable sum, to be determined by the Directors.

CHAPTER IV.

OF EXAMINING COMMITTEES.

Examining Committees to be few.

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint such number of Examining Committees in different parts of the country, to examine and recommend candidates for patronage, as the convenience of applicants, and the interests of the Society, may require. But, as the duties to be performed are of a highly sacred and responsible nature, the undue multiplication of such committees is to be studiously avoided. Where no special reasons exist for a larger number, each Committee shall consist of three persons.

2. When a candidate for patronage applies for examination, it shall be the duty of the Examining Committee, to whom the application is made, to institute a personal and faithful inquiry respecting his testimonials, his studies, his religious character; his motives in seeking an education for the Christian ministry, and his willingness to conform to the rules of the American Education Society. If, after serious and full examination, the Committee shall be satisfied that the applicant possesses the character and qualifications required of beneficiaries by the Constitution and Rules of the Society, it shall be their duty to recommend him for patronage to the Board of Directors of the Parent Society, or, of one of its Branches if the applicant reside within the limits of a Branch Society. In their recommendation, the committee shall state very particularly, *the name, age, residence, place of education, church connexion*, and other important facts connected with the history or character of the applicant, together with an account of the testimonials furnished, and the *names of the persons* by whom they were furnished.

Mode of examination.

3. If, after examining a candidate, the Committee shall have doubts respecting his character and qualifications, while yet they are so far satisfied as to be unwilling to reject the application, they may state the grounds of their doubts, and recommend the applicant on condition of re-examination after a suitable period.

Doubtful cases.

4. It shall be the duty of the several Examining Committees, to endeavor to impress the minds of those who apply for patronage with a deep sense of the momentous and solemn nature of their undertaking, to explain to them the principles upon which appropriations are made by this Society, and to apprize them of the necessity, which the rules of the Society lay upon them, of making vigorous efforts to sustain themselves. It is recommended that every examination of candidates be introduced and closed with prayer.

Applicants to be reminded of the nature of their undertaking.

5. Certificates and testimonials furnished any Examining Committee shall be regarded as the property of the Board of Directors of the Parent Society, and shall be carefully preserved till called for by them or their lawful agent; except, that in case an applicant shall not be received on trial, his papers may, if he requests it, be returned to him.

Testimonials to be preserved till called for by the Board.

CHAPTER V.

OF BENEFICIARIES.

Who are to
be regarded
as candidates

1. No person shall be considered a candidate for assistance who has not pursued classical studies for at least three months, and who has not attained to fourteen years of age.

2. No person shall be patronized who does not furnish satisfactory evidence of promising talents, decided piety, and who is not in the way of obtaining a *thorough* classical and theological education, that is, either preparing to enter College; or a member of some regularly constituted College where a thorough classical course is pursued; or engaged in Theological studies with the design of taking a regular three years' course.

Steps to be
taken by ap-
plicants in
obtaining pa-
tronage.

3. When a young man wishes to apply for patronage, he must pursue the following steps. *First.* He must obtain unequivocal testimonials from three or more serious and respectable persons best acquainted with him and his circumstances, (e. g.) his minister, instructor, a magistrate, or some other principal man in the vicinity, stating his age, place of residence, indigence, moral and religious character, including his church connexion, talents, previous education, and serious desire to devote his life to the Christian ministry. These testimonials should be *sealed* papers, that the writers of them may speak freely, concerning the character of the applicants. *Secondly.* Having obtained these testimonials the applicant must present his request for *examination and recommendation* to some Examining Committee in his neighbourhood, or within the portion of the country to which he belongs. If no such Committee is known to have been appointed, the applicant or his friends may write, for information, to the Secretary of the Parent Society; or if he resides within the limits of a Branch Society, to the Secretary of that Branch.

Applicants
admitted on
on trial.

4. Whenever a young man has taken the above course and been examined and recommended by an authorized Committee, to the Board of Directors of the Parent Society, or of one of its Branches, he may be *admitted on trial*, at the discretion of the Board, for a period of three months.

Schedules to
be returned
quarterly.

5. Every young man admitted on trial, or regularly received in the manner hereinafter mentioned, shall renew

his application, and make his returns to the Board *quarterly*, in season for each quarterly meeting unless for special reasons a longer period shall have been granted by the Board of the Parent Society, and he shall do the same, with scrupulous exactness, according to the following form or schedule—which shall be regularly and punctually returned by all under the patronage of the Society, or of its Branches, in every stage of their education.

I. Form to be used by persons preparing for College or in College.

SCHEDULE of A——— B——— in —— under the patronage (of —— Branch) of the American Education Society, for Quarter ending —— Returned ——

I hereby declare it to be my serious purpose, to devote my life to the Christian Ministry, and to pursue a three years course of Theological studies. For this object, I solicit the patronage of the Am. Education Society.		REMARKS.
A———	B———	
Standing	1st, 2d, 3d, or 4th year.	
	No. of weeks' study during the Quarter.	
	Price of Board per Week.	
	Amount for Board during the Quarter.	
	Tuition during the Quarter.	
	Expense for Room and Washing.	
	Expense for Clothing.	
	Expense for Light and Wood.	
	Expense for Books and Stationary.	
	Incidental Expenses.	
	Total Expenses during the Quarter	
	Debts at the beginning of the Quarter, exclusive of dues to the Am. Ed. Soc.	
	Received from Am. Education Society during the Quarter.	
	Received from other Funds, and from Friends, including Clothing and Books.	
	Number of weeks teaching School.	
	Received for teaching School.	
	Received for labor.	
	Total of receipts during the Quarter.	
	Present debt, exclusive of dues to the Am. Ed. Society.	

II. Form to be used by Students of Theology.

SCHEDULE of A——— B——— in a course of Theological Study in —— under the patronage (of —— Branch) of the American Education Society, for Quarter ending —— Returned ——

I declare it to be my serious purpose, to devote my life to the Christian Ministry, and to pursue a three years course of Theological studies. For this object, I solicit the patronage of the American Education Society.		REMARKS.
A———	B———	
Standing	1st, 2d, or 3d year.	
	Number of Weeks included in this acc.	
	Number of Weeks engaged in Study.	
	Expense for Board.	
	Expense for Tuition.	
	Expense for Room and Washing.	
	Expense for Fuel and Light.	
	Expense for Books and Stationary.	
	Expense for Clothing.	
	Incidental Expenses.	
	Total of Expenses for the period specified.	
	Rec'd from American Ed. Society, during this period.	
	Received from other public Funds and from Friends, including Clothing and Books.	
	Received for personal Labors and Services.	
	Total of Receipts.	
	Debts, exclusive of dues to the American Education Soc.	

Schedule to be examined, & certificate made, by the senior instructor.

6. When the applicant shall have filled the blanks in one or other of the above forms, according to the stage of education in which he is pursuing his studies, he shall give the schedule to the principal officer or instructor of the Institution with which he is connected, who must subscribe the following declaration, on some part of the same, before it can be received by the Board of Directors.

"I certify that I have examined the within [or above] accounts and that I believe the same to be correct; and also that the person [or persons] herein named sustains [or sustain] the character required of beneficiaries by the Constitution and Rules of the American Education Society."*

[Date]

A——— B———

Note for each appropriate if not sent, to be certified.

7. If the note given for his preceding grant, has not been forwarded by the applicant to the Treasurer of the Parent Society, he shall give the schedule, before sending it, to such person as the Treasurer of the Parent Society may have authorized to receive notes for safe keeping, whose signature to the following declaration written upon the schedule, shall be given, before it can be received by the Directors.

"I certify that I have received for safe keeping the note [or notes] of the within [or above] named person [or persons] for his [or their] last grant; which note [or notes] is [or are] subject to the order of the Directors of the American Education Society.

[DATE.]

A——— B——— { Agent for the Treasurer
of the Am. Ed. Society.

* That instructors may be at no loss to understand the import of this declaration, the article of the Constitution is here inserted, which explains it—"Art. 6 Qualified candidates may be aided, in each stage of preparatory education for the ministry; but, except in very singular cases, no applicant shall be assisted, even in the first stage, who shall not produce, from serious and respectable characters, unequivocal testimonials of hopeful piety, promising talents, and real indigence; nor shall any person be continued on this foundation, whose instructor or instructors, except in very special cases, shall not annually exhibit to the Directors, satisfactory evidence, that in point of genius, diligence, literary progress, morals, and piety, he is a proper character to receive aid from these sacred funds; in addition to which, each beneficiary, after his admission into any college, shall annually exhibit to the Directors, a written declaration, that it continues to be his serious purpose to devote his life to the gospel ministry."—No young man of doubtful moral or religious character, or whose talents and scholarship fall decidedly below mediocrity, can be sustained consistently with this article.

8. When a candidate has been on trial for such length of time as to satisfy the Directors of the Parent Society that he possesses the character and qualifications required by the Constitution and Rules, he may, upon recommendation of the Secretary, or in case he has been admitted on trial by the Board of Directors of a Branch Society, with the concurrent vote of such Board, be received by the Parent Board, as a regular beneficiary of the American Education Society, provided he is 15 years of age, and has previously subscribed the following declaration.

Regular beneficiaries.

“Having made myself acquainted with the Constitution and Rules of the American Education Society, I solemnly promise to conform to them so far as they relate to beneficiaries, while I continue to receive the patronage of the Society or of its Branches.”

[Date and residence]

A——— B———

9. Every young man, upon being regularly received, shall be entitled to a certificate of his admission, signed by the Secretary of the Parent Society, and shall have all the privileges which the Parent Society or its Branches bestow on those who are under their patronage. Every such person upon removing out of the limits of one Branch Society into those of another, or from within any of the districts where the Parent Society exercises a direct superintendence, to those of a Branch Society, shall be received by the Board of such Society, upon presenting the above certificate; provided, that he shall also be able to exhibit evidence of a regular dismissal from his former place of instruction and recommendation, agreeably to the 11th section of this chapter.

Regular beneficiaries to have a certificate of their reception.

10. Young men who shall have passed through the preparatory course of study required by the American Education Society, and in conformity to the Rules, shall be entitled to an honorable Testimonial certifying the fact, and signed by the President and Secretary. If any young man shall, at any time, while under patronage, wish to close his connexion with the Society, he shall make known his wishes to the Secretary of the Parent Society; and, provided he has maintained the character required and conformed to the Rules, he shall receive an honorable dismissal.

Entitled to an honorable Testimonial or Certificate of dismissal

11. No person, whether admitted on trial, or regularly

Not to re

move from one place or stage of education without approbation.

received into connection with the Parent Society, or with one of its Branches, shall remove from one place of instruction to another,* or shall advance from one stage of instruction to another, without first obtaining a letter of dismission and recommendation from his instructor, or instructors; or unless notice of such intention has been previously given by him to the Directors of the Parent Society, or of the Branch with which he is connected, and their approbation has been obtained.

Patronage dependent on character in every stage.

12. All, in every stage of their education, shall be regarded as standing upon their character; and shall be liable to have their patronage discontinued for improper conduct of any kind, at the discretion of the Directors of the Parent Society, or if they are under the immediate care of a Branch, at the discretion of the Board of such Branch, with the concurrence of the Board of the Parent Society. Instances of gross fraud or imposition, should they occur, may be exposed publicly, at the discretion of the Directors in like manner.

Those who enter the marriage state.

13. If any young man, under the patronage of this Society shall enter into the marriage state during his preparatory course for the ministry, his appropriations shall cease.

Persons not reporting themselves.

14. If any young man under the patronage of the Society shall neglect to report himself in the manner required in the 5th section of this chapter, twice in succession, without giving any explanation of his omission, he shall be considered irregular, and on renewing his application for aid, shall be liable to re-examination and to a second admission on trial, at the discretion of the Directors either of the Parent Society, or if he resides within the limits of a Branch, at the discretion of its Board of Directors.

Beneficiaries of other Societies who apply to this.

15. Beneficiaries of other Education Societies, applying for patronage to this Society, must exhibit satisfactory evidence of previous good standing in the Societies with which they have been connected, and must furnish an Examining Committee of this Society with satisfactory evidence of their attainments and piety, and be recom-

* It is the uniform principle of the Board not to show exclusive or partial regard to any literary institution; although they wish it to be well understood that they decidedly prefer a public school to a private one.

mended by them to its patronage, before they can be received either upon trial, or regularly admitted.

16. It is desired and expected of all under patronage, that a valuable portion of every day will be employed, as there may be opportunity, in useful exercise and in productive labor, with a view of promoting vigorous health, and of enabling them to do something towards defraying the expenses of their education.

Exercise and productive labor recommended.

17. Every beneficiary of this society should regard it as an object of primary importance to grow continually in a spirit of enlightened devotion, and of fervent piety, deeply impressed with the sentiment, that without this, all his other acquisitions will be comparatively of little worth, either to himself, or to the Church of Christ. It is, therefore, affectionately and earnestly recommended to every beneficiary, that he daily spend a portion of time in devout meditation, reading the scriptures with a view to a personal and practical application, and in humble and fervent prayer; that the Sabbath will be faithfully employed in religious duties, social and secret, and that associations for prayer and religious improvement will be attended as circumstances shall permit.

Growth in piety.

CHAPTER VI.

OF APPROPRIATIONS.

1. The amount appropriated to young men under patronage shall be the least with which they can be carried forward, consistently with health and a thorough education, after making suitable efforts to assist themselves, and receiving the aid of other public funds and of friends.

Amount appropriated.

2. The annual amount of appropriations to young men under patronage in all stages of their education, shall be seventy-five dollars; of which eighteen dollars shall be appropriated for each quarter ending in July and October; nineteen dollars for the quarter ending in January; and twenty dollars for the quarter ending in April: excepting, that in the first stage, while young men are fitting for college, there shall be a reduction of five dollars from each quarterly appropriation, in cases where tuition is gratuitously afforded; and in any stage of their education

Sum per quarter.

where both the board and tuition are furnished gratuitously, the quarterly appropriation shall be ten dollars.

Appropriations in the form of loans

3. Appropriations in money shall be made in the form of loans, for which young men, whether of age or not, shall give their notes, at the time of receiving them in the following form—if under the direct superintendence of the Parent Society:

Form of the notes.

“For value received I promise to pay the American Education Society, or order———dollars in one, two, and three years, after my preparatory studies for the ministry shall have been closed; viz. one third part each year, with interest upon each part after the same respectively shall have become due.”

[Residence and Date]

A——— B———

For appropriations made to beneficiaries by Branch Societies, the following shall be the form used:

“For value received I promise to pay the American Education Society, or order (for the use of the —— Branch of the American Education Society,) —— dollars in one, two, and three years after my preparatory studies for the ministry shall have been closed; viz. one third part each year, with interest upon each part after the same shall have respectively become due; each of which yearly instalments immediately on its being paid, is to be subject to the order of the Treasurer of said Branch Society.”

A——— B———

Notes to be renewed at certain periods.

4. Upon receiving a new appropriation, young men shall be required, at the discretion of the Treasurer, to take up their former notes and give a new note, of the same form, for the amount. When a beneficiary has completed his whole course of study, or wishes to close his connexion with the Society, he shall take up all the notes which he has formerly given, and put the amount into a new note; or, if he has entered upon his profession, the amount shall be divided into three equal parts, and a note given for each part, according to the conditions expressed in his former notes.

Notes cancelled in certain cases.

5. In case the future condition of those who are patronized by the Society, in consequence of any calamity, or of the service of the church to which they may be providentially called, or the peculiar situation in which they may be placed, shall, in the judgment of the Board, be found to be such, as to render it unsuitable for them to

be called upon to pay the debt contracted for their education, it shall be understood to be the right and duty of the Board, to cancel such debt in whole, or in part, whenever they shall judge proper. The notes of young men patronized by a Branch Society, shall be cancelled by the concurrent vote of the Board of the Parent Society and of such Branch.

6. No appropriations shall be made to young men either by the Board of the Parent Society, or of a Branch Society, except at the regular meetings; and then no appropriations shall be made unless young men have conformed to the Rules in making out their returns. If an applicant has failed to make such returns in season for the meeting at which they should have been presented, they must be laid over till the next regular meeting; nor may an appropriation for the preceding period be allowed, if the failure of the applicant to forward his returns be owing to any fault of his, either in not making himself acquainted with the rules, or in not taking the necessary pains to inform himself, and to observe them.

No appropriations to be made but at particular times & when the rules have been observed.

7. A young man admitted on trial, shall receive his first appropriation at the same meeting in which he is admitted. But the sum granted, at one time, shall not exceed the appropriation allowed for one quarter, unless, on account of the distance of the applicant, he has been authorized by the Board of the Parent Society to make his returns and to receive his appropriations less frequently than once in a quarter.

First appropriation, at the time of admission on trial.

8. Notice of appropriations shall be given to young men as early after being made as shall be convenient, by the Secretary of the Parent Society, and he shall direct how and where the funds are to be obtained. Persons authorized by the Treasurer of the Parent Society to receive the notes of young men, for safe keeping, shall in all cases, where it can be done, be the persons authorized to draw or to receive the funds thus appropriated, and shall take each young man's note for his appropriation at the time of paying it.

Notice of appropriations to be given by the Secretary of the Parent Society.

9. Where appropriations have been made by the Board of Directors of a Branch, the order of the Directors of such Branch for payment shall be suspended, until the Board of the Parent Society have held their corresponding meeting, and have concurred in the appropriations;

Appropriations by Branch Societies not to be paid till the Board of the Parent Society have concurred.

and the Secretary of such Branch, upon receiving official notice from the Secretary of the Parent Society that the appropriations have been concurred in, shall immediately forward the order for payment to the Treasurer of the Branch, mentioning the names of each individual for whom funds are to be drawn, with the amount voted to each, and directing the money to be paid to such person or persons, as the Directors of the Parent Society shall authorize to receive and distribute the appropriations. If the Board of the Parent Society do not concur in an appropriation made by the Board of a Branch, the reasons of such non-concurrence shall be forwarded, and payment suspended until a further investigation of the case shall enable both Boards to concur in their decision on the subject.

List of appropriations and deficiencies to be sent to the Treasurer

10. A list of appropriations made by the Board of the Parent Society at each quarterly meeting, and of all deficiencies in the several Branch Treasuries which they have voted to supply, shall be made out by the Clerk of the Board immediately after the meeting, with the usual order for payment. The former, the Treasurer shall pay to those who are authorized as his agents to draw for the money, upon receiving their respective orders; the latter, he shall forward direct, and without delay, to the Treasurers of the several Branch Societies in which the deficiencies may exist.

Moneys refunded to Branch Societies.

11. Moneys refunded by Beneficiaries, appropriations to whom shall have been granted by a Branch Society, shall be pledged to the Branch Society by which the money was appropriated. The manner of redeeming this pledge shall be left to mutual arrangement between the Board of the Parent Society and the Boards of the several Branches.

Blanks for accounts &c. to be furnished by the Board.

12. That there may be a thorough and uniform observance of the Rules of the Society, the Board of Directors shall keep a constant supply of Blanks, and of Blank Books, for the use of officers of Branch Societies and of all others concerned in the business of the Society, the expense of which shall be defrayed out of the Parent treasury.

CHAPTER VII.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

1. Scholarships shall be of two descriptions, Permanent, and Temporary. A permanent scholarship shall consist of one thousand dollars, the income only of which shall be appropriated. A Temporary scholarship shall consist of an annuity, or subscription of seventy-five dollars a year, continued for a period of seven years. Of two kinds
2. For every Temporary scholarship which may be intrusted to the Society, the Directors will aim to educate one young man for the ministry ; and for every Permanent scholarship founded and secured to the Society, the Directors will educate a succession of ministers of the gospel, as fast as the income will permit. One young man to be educated with the aid of a single Scholarship.
3. In cases where a scholarship is founded by an individual, it shall be designated by the name of the donor unless the donor shall affix to it some other name, and where a scholarship is founded by several individuals, it shall be called by such name as they may agree upon, or if none is given, by such name as the Directors shall give it. Scholarships to receive a name.
4. Donors wishing to nominate young men to their respective foundations, may have the right of doing so, provided the persons so nominated shall in all respects possess the character required, and shall conform to the rules of the Society. Donors may nominate beneficiaries.
5. Regular beneficiaries, in either stage of their education, shall be placed upon scholarships, and each scholarship shall have some such beneficiary placed upon it as speedily as may be after it is established. Regular beneficiaries only, eligible.
6. Branch Societies shall be requested to nominate young men under their particular care to scholarships obtained within their limits, unless the donors themselves reserve this privilege. Branch Societies to nominate.
7. The income of permanent scholarships pledged to the Board of Directors of a Branch, shall be transmitted by the Treasurer of the Parent Society to the Treasurer of such Branch. Income of Scholarships pledged to Branch Societies to be transmitted.

CHAPTER VIII.

BRANCH SOCIETIES.

Branches to conform to the Constitution & Rules of the Parent Society.

1. Each Branch and its Board of Directors will aim to conform all their proceedings to the Rules and regulations of the Parent Society, and especially to the fundamental principles of the Constitution.

To have territorial limits.

2. The territorial limits within which the operations of the several Branches shall be confined, shall be a matter of mutual arrangement between the Board of Directors of the Parent Society, and the Board of each Branch respectively.

Applications for aid.

3. Young men residing, or expecting to reside, within the limits of a particular Branch Society, and applying for aid, shall be examined and recommended by a committee of three, two of whom shall be appointed by the Directors of such Branch Society, and one by the Directors of the Parent Society; and the recommendation of this committee, or of a majority of them, shall be an essential prerequisite to the receiving any person upon the funds, either of the Branch, or of the Parent Society: provided however, that in case the instructors, donors, or guardians, under whose care beneficiaries are placed, or by whom they are supported, shall find it most convenient, or for other reasons desirable, that such examination should be conducted by a committee appointed wholly by the Directors of the Parent Society,—the wishes of such instructors, donors, or guardians, may be gratified, at the discretion of the Directors of that Society.

Examining Committees.

4. There shall be one Examining Committee, appointed as above mentioned, within the limits of each Branch; and although the multiplication of Examining Committees beyond what is absolutely necessary, is to be carefully guarded against, yet if one should not be found to be sufficient, another or more may be appointed, in addition, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Branch Society, and with the sanction of the Board of Directors of the Parent Society.

Beneficiaries to be transferred.

5. The Board of Directors of the Parent Society, except where special reasons shall make it inexpedient, or inconvenient, will transfer the beneficiaries which it may already have within the limits of any Branch Society, to

the immediate care of the Board of Directors of such Branch.

6. Beneficiaries removing from the limits of one Branch into those of another, shall be regarded as removing their relation to the Branch within whose limits they are to reside. Or if there be no such Branch, they shall fall under the immediate superintendence of the general Society.

Beneficiaries removing from one place to another.

7. All accounts with Beneficiaries shall be kept in the name of the Parent Society ; and their periodical or other returns, or copies of them, shall be directed and regularly transmitted to the Board of Directors of that Society.

Accounts kept in the name of the Parent Soc.

8. The special care and supervision which the Secretary of the Parent Society is required to take of beneficiaries in the various stages of their preparatory studies, shall be exercised without distinction over those who are under the immediate supervision of the Parent Society and of its Branches.

Supervision of the Sec'y.

9. The Board of Directors of each Branch, are expected to co-operate with the Directors of the Parent Society in raising funds within its limits, by conferring with the Secretary of the Parent Society, and by appointing agents to assist him in the work of solicitation, within those limits, when desired ; but nothing contained in this regulation shall be construed as prohibiting the Board of any Branch from adopting measures of their own for raising funds when a co-operation with the Parent Society cannot, for any reason, be conveniently or speedily had.

Raising funds.

10. The Parent Society, being an incorporated institution, with an ample charter for holding funds, all donations given for the purpose of founding permanent scholarships, whether by individuals or associations, shall be given directly for that Society ; but the income of such as are given within the limits of a Branch Society, shall be pledged to the Board of Directors of such Branch to be appropriated by them, according to the provisions of the general constitution. All donations for immediate use, and all temporary scholarships within the limits of a Branch and sent to its treasury, shall be pledged in like manner : provided that nothing in this article shall be considered as restraining, or in any way affecting the liberty of donors to make such an arrangement in regard to their donations as they may think proper.

Principal of Scholarships held by the Parent Soc.

Meetings.

11. It shall be the duty of the Board of each Branch Society, to meet quarterly, at least two weeks previous to the second Wednesday of January, April, July, and October, to receive the returns of beneficiaries under their care ; to appropriate the funds at their disposal ; to attend to the applications of new beneficiaries ; and to transact any other business which may be important to the welfare of that part of the general concern which is confided to their care.

Treasurer of
the Branch to
report quar-
terly.

12. The treasurer of each Branch shall be required to make a quarterly report, to its Board of Directors, of the state of the treasury, noting particularly the amount of disposable funds, which is possessed at the time ; he shall also be required to forward a duplicate of the same report, including a complete and accurate list of donations for the quarter, to the Treasurer of the Parent Society ; and for all funds in his hands, or under his care, belonging to the General Society, he shall forward a certificate to its Treasurer.

Surplus
funds.

13. Surplus funds in the treasury of any Branch Society, shall be transmitted to the general treasury, or made subject to its order at least once a year, and oftener where arrangements for that end shall be mutually entered into, by the Board of the Parent Society and the Board of any Branch.

Schedules.

14. Schedules, containing the pecuniary accounts of beneficiaries, with their renewed applications for aid, shall usually be made out, and returned quarterly. If the beneficiaries are under the care of a Branch Society, they must make their returns to the Secretary of that Branch, in season for the quarterly meeting of its Directors ; and when those returns have been acted upon by them, they shall be sent by the Secretary of the Branch to the Secretary of the Parent Society, in season for the quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of that Society, with an official note, stating how much has been appropriated by the Board of the Branch Society, and how much will be necessary from the Board of the Parent Society to complete the appropriation.

Differences
of opinion to
be referred to
the Parent
Society.

15. In case of a difference of opinion, between the Board of the Parent Society, and the Board of a Branch, the subject shall be referred to the decision of the Parent Society at a legal meeting, as a portion of the members of that Society are chosen from within the limits of each Branch.

Alterations
and amend-
ments.

16. Other rules and regulations may hereafter be added, or those which are here specified may be altered or amended, as experience may suggest to be necessary.

EXPLANATORY REMARKS.

Origin of the Society.

The American Education Society was formed in 1815, and incorporated in 1816. Its *origin* is to be traced to the spiritual wants of mankind, and to a deep conviction that more vigorous and more extended efforts than have ever yet been made, are called for, in order to supply our country and the world with pious, devoted, and well educated ministers of the gospel. Facts show, that *two thirds* of those who have recently devoted their lives to preaching the gospel in pagan lands—and *one half* of those who have engaged in the work of domestic missions, have been indigent young men, who needed, and who received, in a greater or less degree, the special aid of the Christian public in acquiring an education for the ministry. To afford a limited patronage to young men of this character, upon principles both safe and salutary, is the design of the Society.

Organization.

In adopting a plan of organization, the founders of the Society have aimed to establish a system which should be simple and efficacious, and which at the same time would admit of an easy extension over a wide territory. With this view a GENERAL or PARENT SOCIETY is formed, whose members are chosen from every section of the country, and with whom rests the supreme and ultimate direction of its concerns.

A Board of Directors is chosen annually to superintend and to manage the prudential and executive business of the Society—and especially to form such Rules, and to adopt such a system of measures, as will, in their judgment, secure the great ends of the Institution.

For the sake of greater facility, as well as safety, in managing the concerns of the Institution, BRANCH SOCIETIES are formed in different States and sections of the country. Each Branch has, by the Constitution, a Board of Directors, whose business it is to superintend that part of the general interest which is intrusted to its care by the Parent Society; it has a special treasury; examines and receives, in concert with the Parent Society, beneficiaries, and appropriates the funds in its treasury to their support. If there be a deficiency of resources, application is made to the General Treasury; or, if there be a surplus, it is remitted to the General Treasury. Thus, every Branch co-operates with the General Society, is governed by its Constitution and Rules, and acts in subserviency to the same great object. The influence of the General Society becomes co-extensive with that of its Branches. Its funds include all which flows directly into its own treasury; and all which passes into the subordinate treasuries; while the number of its beneficiaries comprehends all those who are placed under the special care of the different Branch Societies, as well as those who are under its own immediate supervision.

The advantages of this system of organization are many. It gives the General Society all the energy of concentrated effort, and

enables it to watch over the interests of separate portions of the community with the facility of a local society. It produces a division of labor, which is not only favorable to economy, but, considering the nature and extent of the operations of the Society, is indispensable. It is calculated to increase public confidence and to ensure public patronage, by introducing numerous checks, and rendering a perversion of the funds difficult. It gives to each portion of the community the security of the whole against final embarrassment and failure in the important matter of obtaining funds to carry forward the general object within its limits. In short, every Board of Directors of a Branch Society is a Committee for carrying into execution the purposes and objects of the General Society. The most remote friends of the Institution are brought into contact with its interests and objects, and may have a personal share in the measures which are taken to promote them.

Leading Principle.

To one who properly estimates the moral power, either good or bad, which is to be exerted by an educated ministry, no responsibility will appear greater than that of opening the way into the sacred office, to hundreds and thousands of men. Such a responsibility, however, rests upon the American Education Society, and upon other similar Institutions. Millions of souls are to be saved or lost through their influence. Impressed with this belief, and awed by this responsibility, the Directors have been anxious to adopt such *principles*, and to pursue such a *system* of measures, as should have, ultimately, the most favorable influence upon the *purity*, the *ability*, the *piety*, and the *evangelical energy* of the ministry; and which in this manner would best promote the safety, the enlargement, and the highest spiritual welfare of the churches of Christ. It is accordingly a *fundamental* maxim with them, that success must depend, under God, chiefly, upon the *character* of those whom they are instrumental of putting into the ministry.

System of affording aid.

In rendering assistance to those under their patronage, the Board of Directors have endeavoured to adopt a system which would harmonize with the great principle now mentioned. They would grant *so much assistance*, that a young man of proper disposition and endowments may obtain, without serious embarrassment, or loss of health, a *thorough* education for the ministry; and they would afford aid *in such a manner*, as to incite him to diligence and economy, and to leave unimpaired, every desirable motive to personal effort. Proceeding upon this ground, the Directors have, after much experience and reflection, decided to make but small appropriations, and to grant these in the form of advantageous and parental *loans*, rather than in the form of a simple *charity*. The tendency of habits of dependence on charity, especially when formed in early life, has often operated as an objection to Education Societies in the minds of intelligent and benevolent men. It has been seen that multitudes of the most distinguished men in every profession have raised themselves to honor and usefulness by their own efforts; and public opinion has generally ascribed their success, in no small degree, to the se-

vere, but salutary discipline which they experienced in the school of necessity. They were compelled to be men of enterprise, of diligence, of self-denial, and of resources, or to be nothing. Such men have been oftener found in the ministry, than in any other profession: and rarely indeed, have they been found unoccupied; or, praying to be put into "one of the priest's offices that they might eat a piece of bread." Their labours have been estimated, as above all price, and the highest posts of usefulness in the church have been opened wide unto them. The Directors of the American Education Society would increase, rather than diminish, the number of such men. By adopting their present system, they encourage young men to do all which they can for themselves, and encourage their friends and relatives to assist them; they lessen the inducement, to any but those whose hearts are strongly set on the ministry, and who really need assistance, to apply for aid; they allow young men to feel that they are not pensioners on charity, but dependent, ultimately, upon themselves alone for their education; and they increase the resources, and thus extend and multiply the benefits of the Society.

The loan, as will be seen by the Rules,* is *without interest* until there has been time to refund it—it is *without* any other *security* than that of the young man's own name—and it is made with the further provision, of being ultimately cancelled in whole, or in part, by the Board of Directors, should they think it improper or unsuitable to require him to refund. Foreign and domestic missionaries, and ministers settling in very destitute regions, where they can obtain only a scanty subsistence, have been decided by the Board, in several instances, to come within this provision.

Responsible duty of Examining Committees.

According to the foregoing Rules, it will be seen that the Examining Committees are intrusted with a momentous responsibility. They are sentinels placed at the door of the Christian ministry. *Their recommendation is the most important step towards obtaining access to the funds.* If they are unfaithful, it will be difficult to prevent a wide perversion of these, and a serious injury will result to the church of God. It is earnestly hoped that this reflection will ever be impressed deeply on the minds of all who are appointed to perform this sacred trust. Christian prudence requires that the sense of this responsibility should not be weakened by multiplying Examining Committees unnecessarily, nor by placing many on the same Committee.

Causes of a discontinuance of patronage.

These are stated in general terms, in Chap. V. Sect. 12, to be "*improper conduct of any kind.*" We think it well to observe, that the Board regard all acts of resistance to the lawful authority and government of Instructors, as being eminently of this character, and they never fail to treat it accordingly. Neglect of study, extravagance in expenditures, great indiscretion, and any other conduct in-

* Chap. VI. Sections 3 and 5.

consistent with a Christian profession, or calculated to bring reproach on the cause of religion and benevolence, will be viewed as a sufficient reason for discontinuing patronage.

Importance of a permanent and uniform income.

There is a striking difference in the circumstances of the American Education Society, and most other Benevolent Institutions of a popular kind. The most important work which the Directors have to perform lies in the selection, and thorough supervision of candidates for patronage. There is greater danger to be apprehended on this ground than on any other. The persons to be patronized are young, often *minors*, and their character is yet to be formed. In addition to this, they are peculiarly liable to have their qualifications overrated, through the partiality of friends. To guard effectually against evils arising from these and other causes, it is indispensable that the minds of the Directors and of their principal agents be relieved, as much as possible, from the hitherto all engrossing care of raising funds; and that they have an opportunity of attending minutely to the *character and conduct* of all under their patronage. Among the methods which have been devised to secure these important ends, is the establishment of scholarships; either *permanent*, or annuities of seventy-five dollars a year for seven years—which are called *temporary scholarships*. For supplying the deficiencies of these when they exist, and meeting the various contingent expenses of the Society, a large amount of subscriptions, in the ordinary way, are constantly requisite.

Necessity of a constant and faithful observance of the Rules.

The system of Rules which have been adopted may appear minute to those who are not acquainted with the various and extended concerns which the Society and its Branches are obliged to manage. They are, however, no more numerous than the exigencies of the Society, after long experience in superintending its interests, absolutely require. It is not known that a *single rule* has been adopted which has not been called for in practice. They must therefore be observed, or some part of the system of operations will be impaired, and move on irregularly. The Directors feel the necessity of observing them to be *imperative*, and they cannot consent to disburse the funds intrusted to their care, over numerous and widely distant portions of the country, except in conformity with the Rules which are now promulged.

The *quarterly meetings* of the Board, when appropriations are made, are on the *second Wednesdays of January, April, July, and October*. All *returns and applications* should be in the hands of the Secretary of the General Society by the 1st day of each of these months. The Boards of the several Branch Societies meet usually *two weeks previous* to the meetings of the Board of the Parent Society. *Returns and applications* from young men within the limits of the respective Branches, should be sent to their several Secretaries, by the *middle* of the preceding months.

Blanks of the various descriptions may be had at any time, without charge, by applying to the Executive Officers of the Parent Society, or of the Branch Societies.

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